



ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY WAIVER

Renewal Executive Summary, March 2019

Introduction

Utah's 1915 (c) Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Acquired Brain Injury Waiver (ABI Waiver) expires June 30, 2019. In order to continue operations of this waiver, the Department of Health acting as the State Medicaid Agency (SMA) must submit a waiver renewal application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) no later than March 31, 2019.

The SMA is the single state agency that retains administrative authority of the ABI Waiver. This waiver allows for the provision of HCBS to individuals meeting a Nursing Facility level of care.

Drafting Process

The SMA together with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) prepared an initial draft of the waiver renewal in the summer of 2018. A workgroup comprised of waiver participants, the families of participants, advocates, providers and State staff from both the SMA and DSPD was then convened to review the initial draft and provide input. A final draft was then created as a result of the feedback provided.

Public Input

Initial public input was sought by utilizing the workgroup process described above as well as additional public input in the following ways:

- Presenting to the following groups: Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) and the Utah Indian Health Advisory Board (UIHAB) in March 2019.
- Posting the draft online and providing a 30-day public comment period.
- Reviewing and responding to comments after the 30-day public comment period and making decisions about further amending the waiver to incorporate additional comments received.

The final draft will be completed by mid-March. Final review, approval and submission of the waiver application will be completed by the State Medicaid Director.

Overview of Proposed Changes

- Service Modifications
 - The following services will be removed as State Plan services have appropriately covered the needs of participants and/or other waiver services will now provide adequate supports: Cognitive Retraining, Service Animal, Speech Language Services, Consumer Preparation Service, Occupational Therapy & Physical Therapy (Extended State Plan Services).
 - Massage Therapy has been added as a service.
- Change to General Waiver Specifications
 - The process for background checks was updated and further clarified.
 - The Comprehensive Brain Injury Assessment will now replace the Supports Intensity Scale as the primary tool used for Person Centered planning.
 - Additional changes were made throughout the implementation plan to remove obsolete language, clarify intent and support the program adjustments as outlined.
- Quality Improvement
 - Performance measures were streamlined and clarified to better reflect what is measured.

Questions and comments about the draft waiver application are welcome and can be submitted to:

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